

2003 Report of Accomplishments

North Yakima Conservation District



Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- The NYCD implemented riparian restoration BMP's on 822 acres. BMP's included tree and shrub planting, fence removal, weed abatement and riparian forest buffer.
- The NYCD constructed 2 miles of livestock exclusion fence around a critical Bull Trout spawning area in the Ahtanum Creek watershed.
- The NYCD assessed fish habitat, inventoried barriers and evaluated riparian habitat on approximately 75 miles on salmon bearing streams.



Tree Top Project, J-hook vane placement

Mission of the North Yakima Conservation District

- To be the natural resource management and protection leader within the NYCD boundaries focusing on water, soil, air, and fish and wildlife issues. The district will strive to be self-sufficient, non-regulatory conduit of voluntary assistance to local landowners, schools and the community at large. The NYCD will strive to assist Yakima County and other governmental agencies in addressing land use and natural resource problems and solutions.

Water Quality Implementation

- Ahtanum Ridge Business Park Project: Planted and maintained a riparian buffer along a 2700' corridor of Wide Hollow Creek. BMP's included "riparian forest buffer", and control of noxious weeds.
- Monson Project phase 1 Project: Planted and maintained a riparian buffer along 1200' of Taylor Ditch (side channel of the Yakima River). BMP's included tree and shrub planting and control of noxious weeds.

Basic Funding

- The NYCD utilizes its basic funding to support basic district operations the most important of which is to maintain NYCD's local district assessment. This local assessment is then utilized to leverage and/or initiate all of NYCD's Projects and Programs.

Local Funding

- The NYCD has utilized local funding to seek, establish and match Co-operative Agreements with various natural resource entities for the purpose of implementing on the ground conservation measures. During 2003 NYCD secured \$101,308.00 through this process.
- The NYCD utilizes its local funding to actively participate in local, regional, state and federal natural resource planning processes that directly leads to additional funding and programs.

Irrigation Efficiencies

- The NYCD entered into contract with Selah-Moxee Irrigation District. This \$413,125 (85% cost-share) contract provided funding to line 3.62 miles of canal that established 1.34 cfs of water into the state trust.

Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration

- *Buchanan Ranch Project: This SRFB funded project has implemented a comprehensive restoration plan on 290 acres along a 2-mile stretch of Wenas Creek at the Yakima River. The restoration plan establishes a riparian zones and fish barrier(s) removal as well as fence abandonment, noxious weed control and supplemental watering.*
 - *Tree Top Project: This SRFB funded project through Tree Top Inc. has implemented a complete Salmon Recovery Plan for their spray field along the Yakima River. This Plan included the establishment of 7800' of riparian buffer (avg. 150'), 3 J-hook vanes, and comprehensive O&M*
 - *The NYCD is actively participating in the Yakima Basin Tributary Access and Habitat Program. This program provides for stream habitat assessment, fish screen needs, and barrier identification. Through technical work groups a prioritization of activities and projects will be identified that when implemented will invoke salmon recovery in the tributaries of the North Yakima Conservation District. Ahtanum Creek and Cowiche Creek have been assessed and several "early action" projects are underway and have been funded for implementation.*
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Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices